



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, February 9, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Asian longhorned beetle - A meeting was held this week in Illinois to develop an action plan for enhancing the ALB public outreach program. Now that very few infested trees are detected each year, media coverage on the IL ALB program has dwindled. In order to maximize the success of eradicating ALB from IL, maintaining a high level of public awareness is critical. John Dodd, PPQ ALB LPA Specialist, lead the group consisting of representatives from program operations and public relations with the IL State Department of Agriculture and the City of Chicago Forestry Bureau, US Forest Service, and Morton Arboretum. The goals of the outreach efforts are to increase public involvement in support of the chemical treatment program, re-energize public support to aid in the survey efforts in the detection and delimiting areas of the infestation, and to develop a more aggressive public awareness campaign outside of the immediate eradication action areas.

The solicitations for chemical treatment operations in Illinois and New York are published. About 90,000 trees are targeted for treatment in the combined areas of Chicago and Park Ridge Illinois. In New York, about 69,000 trees are targeted for treatment in the combined areas of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island.

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Pest Detection - The National CAPS Committee met in Nashville, TN on January 28 and 29 to discuss the future plans for the program. The Committee consists of representative of the National Plant Board, PPQ, CSREES, State and University personnel as well as representatives from the Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology and NAPIS. A wide range of topics were covered including the Pest Detection list for use in FY2005, pest reporting into NAPIS, the CAPS

Internal Review and the National Plant Diagnostic Network (CSREES).

The CAPS program was featured in the January edition of the "Inside APHIS" newsletter. It reported on new initiatives and the contained photographs of award recipients at the recent National CAPS meeting in Las Vegas, NV. You will find the article on the APHIS website or by clicking the following link.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/inside_aphis/featurePPQ-CAPSMeting-Dore-Feb4-04.htm

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Sudden oak death - Two new trees found in United Kingdom associated with *Phytophthora ramorum* -

The United Kingdom announced they have found two new species of trees associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*. These are species native to the UK, *Quercus cerris* (European turkey oak) and *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut). Both are in the *Fagaceae* (oak family). This brings to four the number of oak species found associated in Europe (equal to the number in the US) and to seven the number of tree species in Europe. Trees have been reported affected so far only in the UK and the Netherlands. This brings the total regulated hosts to 28 with an additional 30 identified "associated species". For additional information and the complete list, go to: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod and click on the link to "APHIS list of regulated and associated plants"

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Emerald ash borer -

Canada

Approximately 64,000 ash trees are being cut in Windsor, Ontario, and southwestern Ontario's Essex County to stop the emerald ash borer (EAB).

The Canadians hope to halt the beetle's spread by creating an ash-free zone in southwestern Ontario



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stretching from Lake Erie in the south to Lake St. Clair in the north. It has been estimated that one million ash trees in Essex County have already been destroyed by this pest.

CFIA officials hope the 10-kilometre-wide zone, also known as a firebreak, will save ash trees east of the line. The plan also restricts the movement of ash trees, ash forest products and firewood of all species from Essex County.

Michigan

After carefully reviewing all public comments and testimony, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant announced on February 11, that he has made a final determination to move forward on the proposed actions to eradicate EAB. To date, EAB has killed nearly 6 million trees in the generally infested area of Southeast Michigan (13 counties) and also has been found destroying ash trees in isolated pockets of several other counties in the southern Lower Peninsula.

Wyant noted that the first sites identified for eradication actions, which to date entails removing all ash trees within a ½ mile of an EAB infestation, include: Shields in Saginaw County; Delta Township and Potterville in Eaton County; Marshall in Calhoun County; Wyoming in Kent County; St. Joseph in Berrien County; and sites along the St. Clair River in St. Clair County. These sites were selected for a variety of reasons, but primarily because they are spots of infestation that occurred by artificial spread and are the farthest away from the known-infested area and/or critical to stopping the beetle's further spread. He also reiterated that MDA is committed to integrating additional eradication options as new science becomes available and can show necessary efficacy.

The Department is working to complete the majority of these tree removals before the middle of May, when EAB adults may first emerge from beneath the bark of infested ash trees and start flying and depositing their eggs on new ash trees.

Restoration grant applications are now available for Michigan communities suffering tree losses related to EAB infestation. The program, administered by the DNR provides financial and technical assistance to communities affected by the loss of tree cover. The USDA Forest Service has awarded Michigan \$1.2 million for tree planting efforts in fiscal year 2004. The deadline for applying for EAB restoration grants is March 5, 2004. Local governments in the core, and those in outlier areas scheduled for management, qualify for the 50-50 cost share grants.

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***Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar** - USDA has informed Goldsmith Plants, Inc that it will not re-certify their Guatemalan place of production to export geranium plants to the United States at this time. Several samples taken from geranium plants in the United States and Guatemala that were produced at this facility have tested positive for *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

PPQ and State regulatory officials are continuing to hold, destroy and dispose of the three geranium varieties produced at a Guatemalan production facility that are potentially infected with *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

Nationally, 41 states have a total of 459 suspect facilities, 75 facilities are currently being held, 381 control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) are complete, 379 facilities have been released, and more than 1.5 million cuttings or plants have been destroyed, as of February 12, 2004. All control actions in the Western Region are complete and all held nurseries have been released.

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Gypsy Moth - PPQ sponsored a gypsy moth regulatory workshop on February 9, 2004, in Indianapolis to harmonized policy and procedures among State Plant Regulatory Officials from the states with unregulated



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areas along the leading edge of the quarantine area. Although the areas are not regulated, they are characterized by incipient moth populations due to the natural spread of the insect. PPQ provides approximately \$270,000 annually to States along the quarantine boundary to carry out pre-regulatory activities. The funds provided by PPQ are intended to support activities to mitigate the emerging risk of artificial movement of the moth, promote public education, and initiate compliance agreement discussions with enterprises in anticipation of eventual regulation of the area. Workshop participants included State plant regulatory personnel, USDA Forest Service Slow-the-Spread program leaders, the APHIS State Plant Health Director for Indiana, the APHIS Eastern Region gypsy moth program leader, and the PDMP gypsy moth national program coordinator. There was wide agreement among participants that the workshop was greatly beneficial, and should become an annual event.

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